



Story-Time
Series

The World's Smartest Cat



Centre For
Learning Resources

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The World's Smartest Cat

Adapted from an American folktale

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Mrs. Gomes lived on a small farm in Goa. She loved all her animals. But she sometimes had to chase the ducks out of her garden, or the chickens off her verandah.

One day, a little grey mouse ran across the kitchen floor.
Mrs. Gomes picked up the broom and chased it.
"What we need is a cat," she said, huffing and puffing.
"A cat to keep mice out of my kitchen and to rub her back
against my feet."





So Mr .Gomes went into town and came back carrying the softest, cuddliest cat you ever saw.

"She's the world's *softest* cat," said Mrs. Gomes. "Let's see if she's also the world's *smartest* cat."

"Look here, Kitty. A grey mouse lives here," said Mrs. Gomes, pointing to a hole in the wall. "If you catch him, I'll give you a big saucer of cream."





Well, the grey mouse soon gave Kitty her chance. He ran out from the hole. Kitty sprang after him. Out of the verandah and into the house ran the grey mouse. Round and round and under the chairs. Poor Kitty raced and chased, but couldn't catch him at all.

She just lay down under the table, too tired even to mew.





"Poor Kitty," said Mrs. Gomes. "All that racing and chasing. You didn't earn your saucer of cream, but I know what hard work chasing is, so here's a big saucer of cream for you anyway."

The next day the grey mouse came out again. This time it raced into the bedroom and Kitty ran after him.

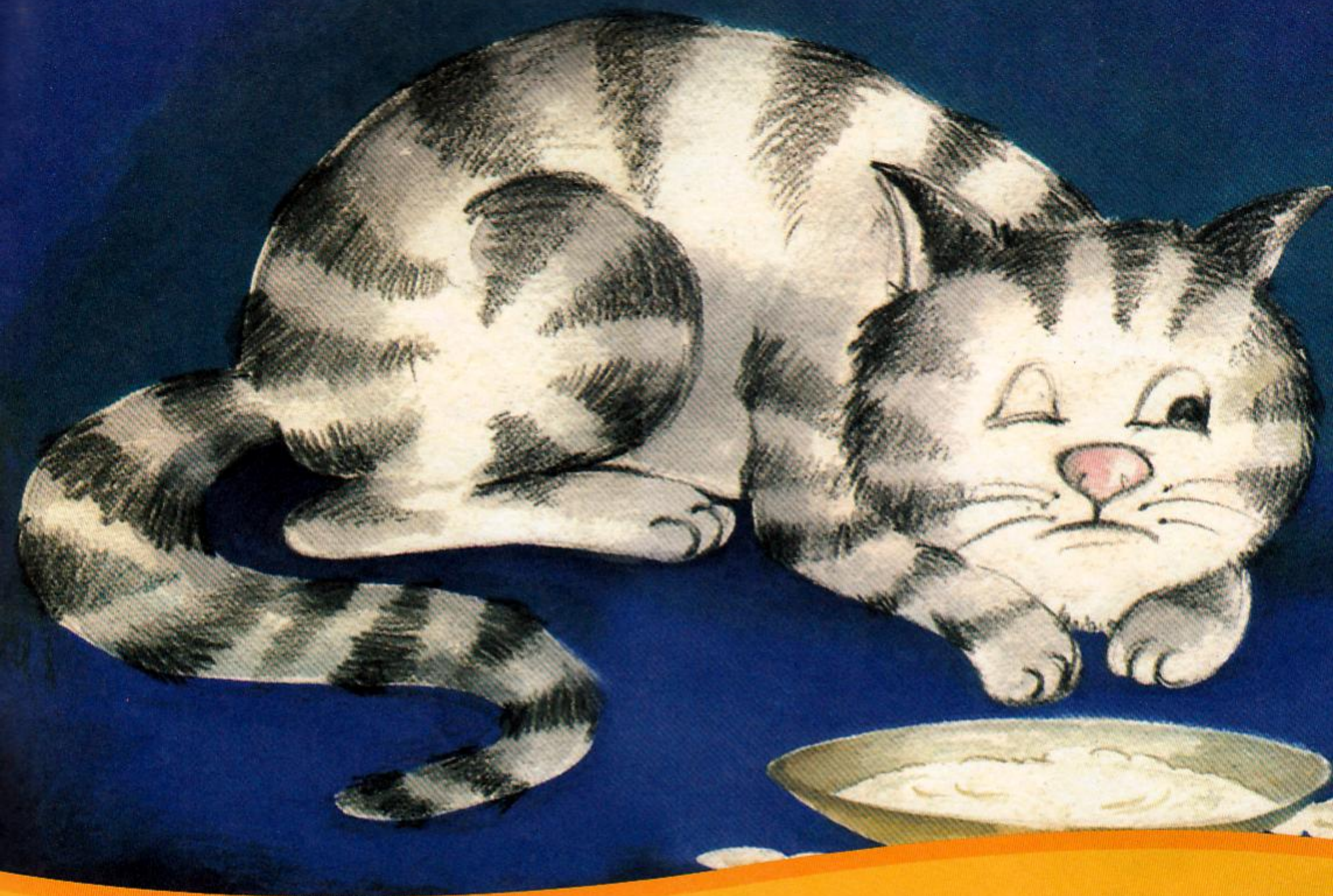




Soon he was in the kitchen, and Kitty ran after him until she was worn out.

Day after day the mouse turned up and made Kitty chase him all over the house. He would not let her get anywhere near him. He got fatter and faster, fatter and faster, and Kitty could never catch him.



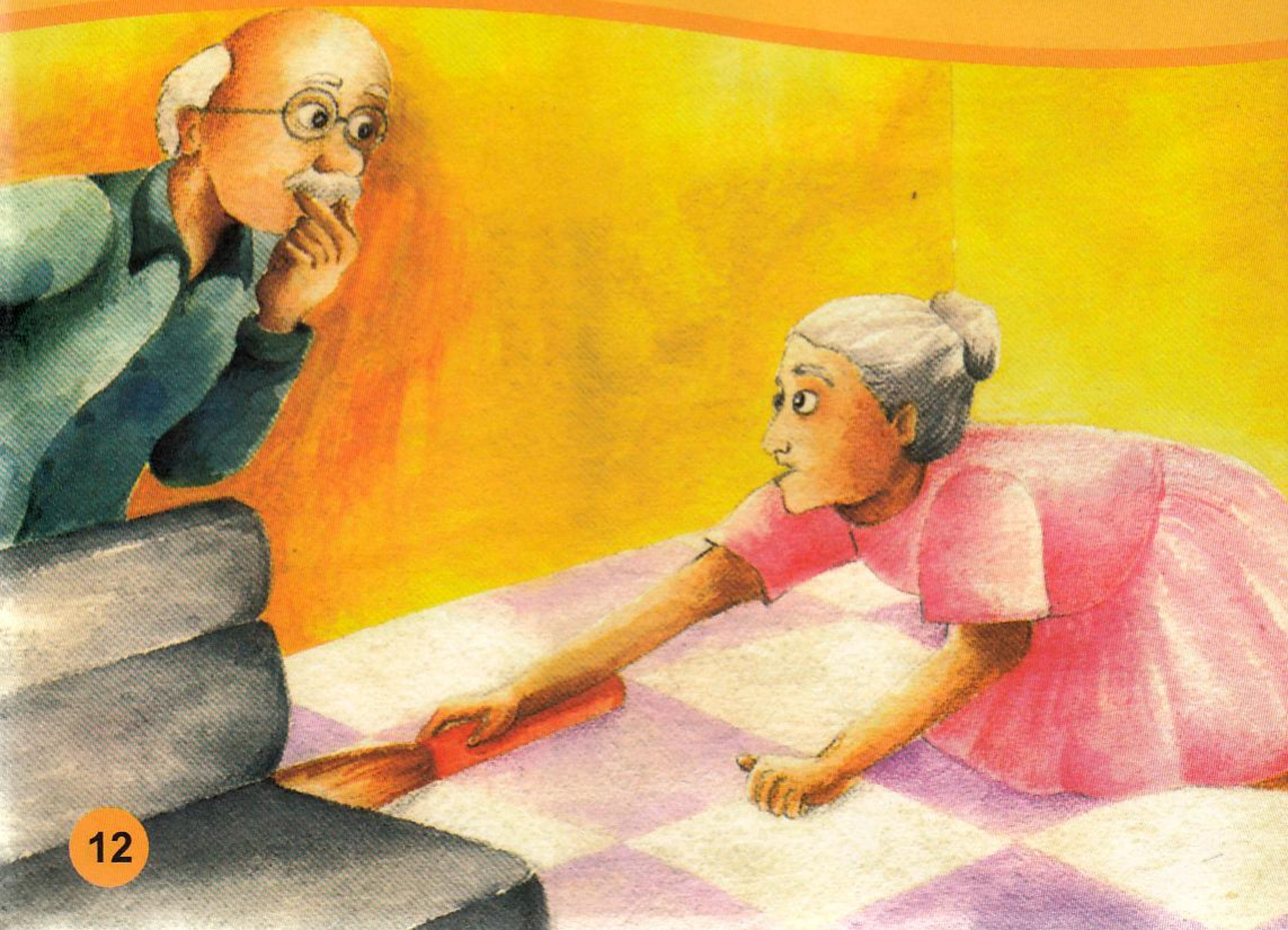


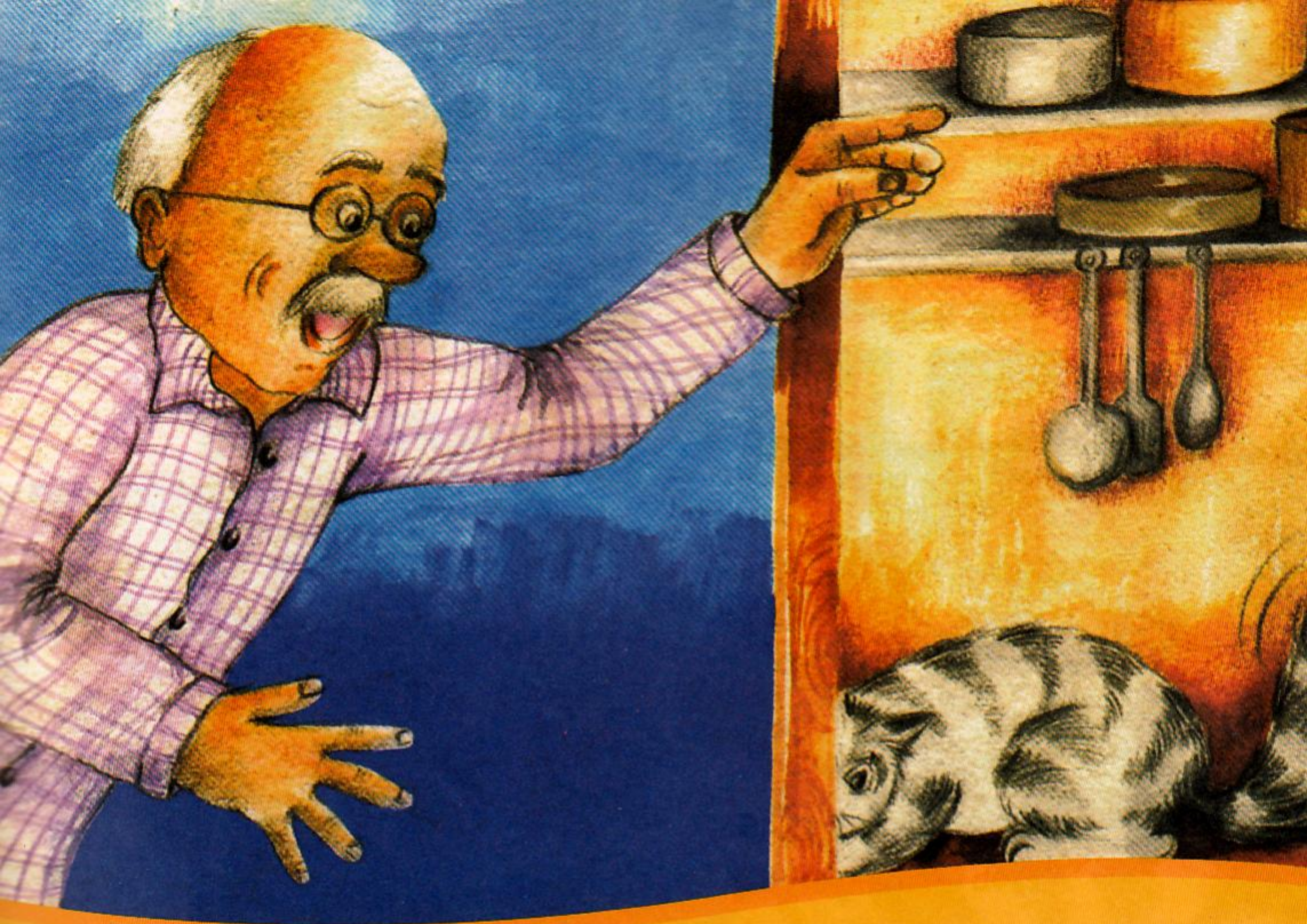
Day after day Mrs. Gomes would feel sorry for Kitty and give her saucers of cream.

One day, Mr. Gomes saw Mrs. Gomes poking under the sofa with a broom.

"What's under there now? The chickens?" he asked.

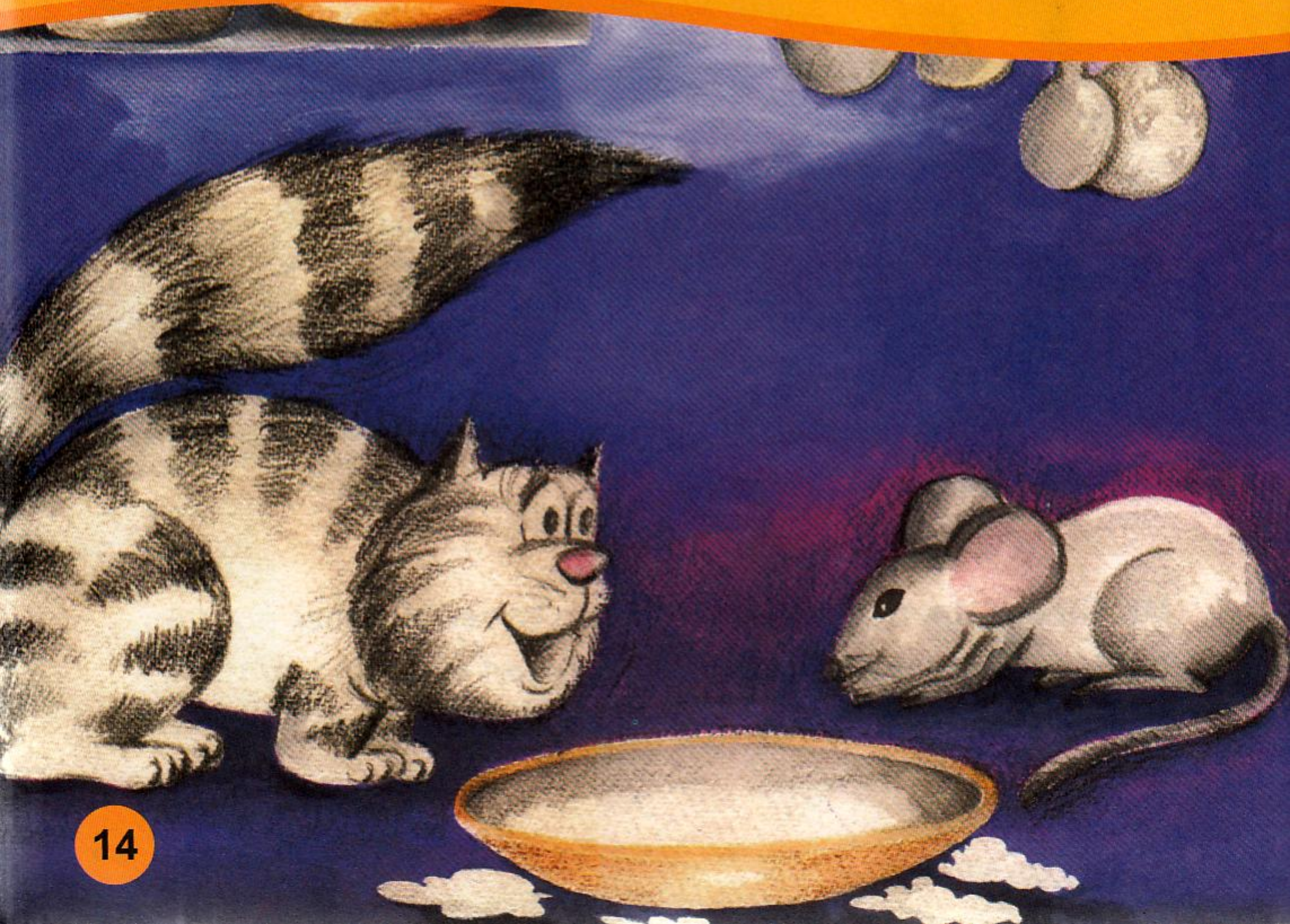
"Oh no, it's not the chickens. It's that grey mouse," said Mrs. Gomes. "It just keeps getting fatter and faster, fatter and faster, and making Kitty so tired."





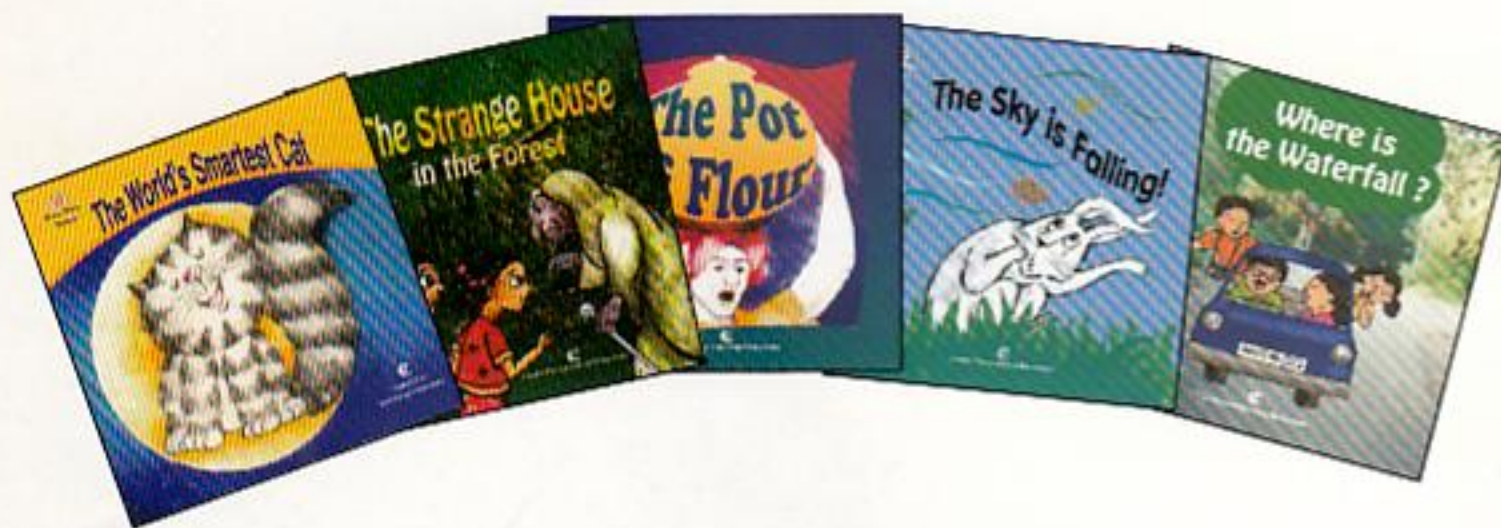
Mr. Gomes tip-toed into the kitchen to see whether poor tired-out Kitty was perking up now. And what do you think he saw? There was Kitty, lapping cream out of a big saucer.

And there, right beside her, was that grey mouse sharing
the cream!



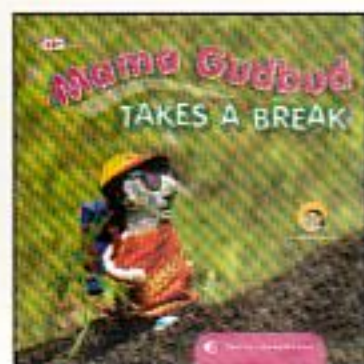
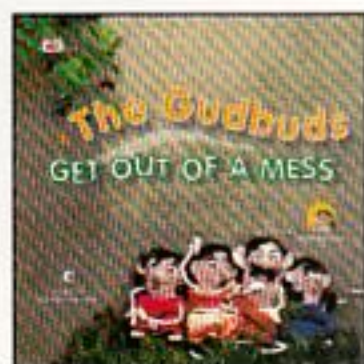
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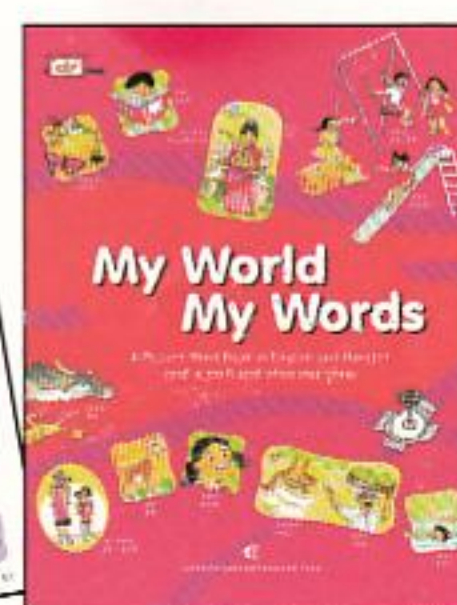
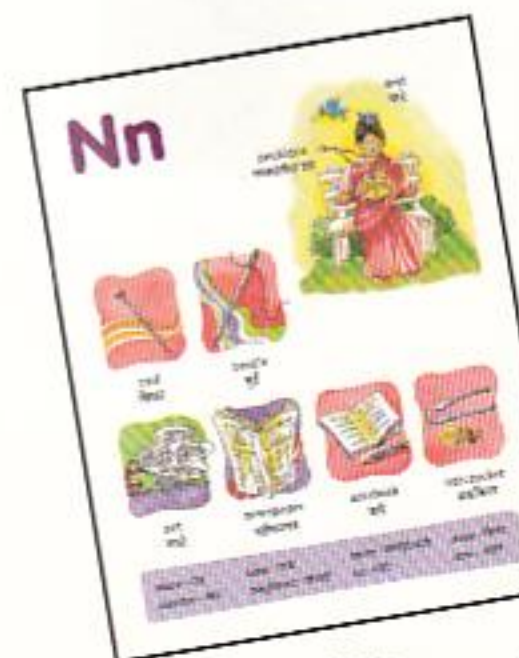
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The World's Smartest Cat

An adaptation of an American folktale about how a cat and a mouse outwit human beings and live in comfort.

'Story-Time' Series

This series has been developed by Centre For Learning Resources. The stories range from traditional Indian and international folktales to modern settings and themes. They can be read aloud to preschool children, and are appropriate for children reading at the primary level.

Centre For Learning Resources (CLR) is a non-governmental educational institution involved in training, research, materials development, advocacy and consultancy for educational programmes. Its main goal is to improve the quality of education and development of socially and economically disadvantaged children.

